

# **Bible Expedition**

## **“Journey to Philippi” Manual**

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# Bible Expedition

## “Journey to Philippi”

The goal of Bible Expedition is to provide high quality, doctrinally-sound, Christ-centered, engaging VBS programs and materials. We hope to be a blessing to other churches and to spread the Gospel message.

“Journey to Philippi” is a bible-centered, Gospel-oriented VBS program designed to teach children about truths found in Scripture. Through this event, the book of Philippians is made into a narrative. Kids are able to meet and interact with characters from the city of Philippi. Those characters share their story of how God has and is working in their lives.

“Journey to Philippi” is a three-day program (Thursday Night, Friday Night, Saturday Morning) with each day’s activities lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. See Figure 1 for a sample schedule:

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	-----Registration-----		
6:30-6:45	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
8:15-8:30	-----Checkout-----		

Figure 1

Each day is centered on a specific theme discussed in the book of Philippians and will include time for group worship, a bible lesson, games, crafts and a snack. Themes include: “Serving God and Serving Others”, “Unity in Christ” and “Freedom through Faith in Christ.” There is also an optional “Camp In” when families can camp overnight in the church and conduct an individual family-led devotion with their children focused on the lessons learned during the program.

This manual is designed to make “Journey to Philippi” simple for churches to set up and have a quality, Scripturally-based VBS program. This manual includes an outline of events, scripts to use during Group Worship, detailed Bible lessons, family devotion questions and instructions for games, crafts, and decorations.

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# Bible Expedition: “Journey to Philippi”

## Outline and Skits

### Day 1

#### Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Timothy: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Timothy.html>)
- Epaphroditus: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Epaphroditus-in-the-Bible.html>)
- Sophie: Female character, not referenced by name in Scripture, but loosely adapted from Acts 16:16-18.

### “Serving God and Serving Others”

**Verse:** Philippians 2:5-7;

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

**Registration** 6:15pm

**Opening Group Worship:** 6:30- 6:45pm

(Claudius) Hi everyone! Thank you for coming and welcome to the church of Philippi!

Our church was founded about 10 years ago, in the year AD 50, by the Apostle Paul. Since then, we have continued to grow and learn about living a life that pleases God. Currently, we are still praying for the Apostle Paul who is in prison for telling people about Jesus. We have also been praying for Epaphroditus and Timothy, who have been helping Paul.

Well today, I have great news! Epaphroditus and Timothy are actually here with us at the church of Philippi! Please help me welcome them now!

*[Lead clapping and invite Timothy and Epaphroditus on stage]*

(Timothy) Hey everyone. My name is Timothy and it is great to be back in Philippi. Paul wanted us to thank everyone again for the gift you all sent him. Today we have a gift for you as well. We would like to give each of you a wristband that has an important verse on it. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse has helped me through some tough times.

(Epaphroditus) Thanks Timothy. Those bracelets are great reminders that it's Christ who empowers us to do anything of worth. Hi guys! My name is Epaphroditus. As some of you know, I got really sick while helping Paul. Sometimes life is difficult, but knowing that God loves you and strengthens you helps you through those hard times. We hope you enjoy our gift to you. It's great to be back in Philippi!

*[Timothy and Epaphroditus exit stage]*

(Claudius) Thank you guys. It's great to have you back in Philippi. We will make sure everyone here gets your gift today. Thanks again!

Well, one thing we enjoy here in Philippi is worshipping God through music. So, let's worship.

*[Sing a worship song]*

Well today, we have a special speaker named Sophie who would like to share her testimony. Please join me in welcoming my friend Sophie.

*[Lead clapping and invite Sophie on stage]*

(Sophie) Thank you Claudius. Hi everyone.

- Today, I would like to share with you how Jesus saved me.
- At a young age I was taken from my parents and forced to work very hard for people who didn't care about me.
- I was forced to do things that were wrong. My masters were mean. They told me to lie to people in order to make money, and every time I lied I felt guilty and dirty.

- I was controlled by evil thoughts. My head was filled with evil. I was filled with anger and bitterness, and I lived like that for years. It was a horrible time. I felt like there was no hope.
- Then one day I heard a man named Paul speaking. He was telling people that God loved them. He said Jesus was God's Son and that Jesus died for them. He told people that by believing in Jesus, they could be saved from the penalty of their sins, made right with God, and be with Him in heaven. He said Jesus was now his master and that Jesus is a good master.
- At first, I didn't believe Paul. I thought that if God loved people then why was I held captive? Was there any such thing as a good master?
- I thought Paul was a liar. What he said sounded too good to be true, so I mocked him and called him all kinds of bad names. I followed him for days yelling at him and trying to get him to leave Philippi.
- Paul ignored me at first, but after a few days, I must have really been getting on his nerves because he confronted me. But he didn't shout at me to stop yelling like you would imagine. He turned and commanded the spirit in me to come out in the name of Jesus Christ.
- It was a miracle. Instantly, I felt like a huge burden was lifted. I didn't have bad thoughts and anger. I was free for the first time. I had been in bondage my whole life and in an instant, I was free. I knew this power came from God. Years of guilt and thoughts that I could never get rid of on my own were gone in an instant.
- Jesus healed me! I dropped to my knees and cried. I realized what Paul had been saying is true. Jesus loves. Jesus forgives. Jesus saves. Jesus is a good master. At that moment, I believed in Jesus Christ as my new master.
- It has been over ten years since that day and I am still following God. I am no longer in bondage to sin. I am completely free.
- Today, I want to encourage each of you. Some of you are living to serve things in this world. You may want to have a bunch of friends or to become really wealthy. You may want to live for whatever feels good. But I can tell you, Jesus is better than anything this world has to offer.

(Claudius). Thank you Sophie. You know, that's something we can all remember, and that's a good question for us to ask ourselves, "Who or what are we serving with our life?"

What do you say we sing another song and then you can go with your group leaders to explore Philippi?

*[Lead group in a song]*

**Rotations (Bible Lesson/Games/Crafts & Snacks): 6:50-8pm**

Rotation 1: 6:50- 7:10; Rotation 2: 7:15-7:35; Rotation 3: 7:40-8:00

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	-----Registration-----		
6:30-6:45	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
8:15-8:30	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: Serving God by serving others; Making crafts for Operation Christmas Child (necklaces and bracelets); Eat a Philippians Sugar Cookie.
- Games (Sophie’s Treasure Hunt): Game to find items to send to Operation Christmas Child; they can keep any candy they find. Everyone receives a Philippians 4:13 wristband.
- Bible Lesson: Servant hood, examples of servants in Philippians, Christ: the greatest Servant

**Closing Group Worship: 8:05- 8:15pm**

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed their rotations and activities. Before we leave I would like to encourage you with our verse for today.

Philippians 2:5-7; “<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”



Everyone can be a servant of Jesus, because Jesus left Heaven to become a servant for us!

Let's praise God through singing a few more songs before we finish tonight!

*[Lead group in singing 2-3 songs]*

**Sign out:** 8:20 – 8:30pm

## Day 2

### Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Timothy: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Timothy.html>)
- Epaphroditus: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Epaphroditus-in-the-Bible.html>)
- Euodia: Female character referenced in Philippians 4:2-3. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Euodia-and-Syntyche.html>)
- Syntyche: Female character referenced in Philippians 4:2-3. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Euodia-and-Syntyche.html>)
- Lydia: Female character referenced in Acts 16. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Lydia-in-the-Bible.html>)

### “Unity in Christ”

Philippians 1:27 “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,...”

**Registration** 6:15pm

**Opening Group Worship:** 6:30- 6:45pm

*[Claudius, Timothy and Epaphroditus enter stage.]*

(Claudius) Welcome back to day two of Journey to Philippi everyone! We are excited to be here again with you. Raise your hands if you are excited to be here. (option: Claudius can lead the group in a WAVE)

(Claudius) Well today, we are going to talk about unity.

*[Interrupted by loud arguing off stage or behind children]*

(Claudius) What is that noise?

*[Timothy and Epaphroditus put their face their hands and shake their heads]*

(Timothy) Oh no!!!

(Claudius) What is it?

(Epaphroditus) EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE!!

(Claudius) Oh no!!!

*[Euodia and Syntyche enter stage with a large, gaudy church lady hat covered in bright colored cloth. Both are animated and angry.]*

(Euodia) Claudius! We have a big problem. We were in the marketplace and I found this beautiful hat.

(Syntyche) No Claudius. I found the hat first. As I was paying for it Euodia took it and said it was hers.

(Euodia) Syntyche is lying!!

(Claudius) Ladies please. You are sisters but you argue about everything, every day!! It gives us all a headache. And the hat! Well, look at it. It's hideous!

(Claudius) *[looks toward the kids]* What do you all think guys? Do you like the hat?

*[Allow children to respond]*

(Euodia) *[Respond in sarcastic disgust]* Well I don't care. I saw the hat first.

(Syntyche) No. I saw the hat first.

*[Euodia and Syntyche leave the stage arguing and struggling over the hat]*

(Claudius) Timothy and Epaphroditus, could you help those two work this out before they cause any more trouble?

*[Timothy and Epaphroditus exit stage, following Euodia and Syntyche]*

(Claudius) Well as I was saying. Today we are going to talk about unity and it looks like we have some work to do. We are going to need God to help us with Euodia and Syntyche. Let's worship God through a song.

*[Lead group in signing]*

(Claudius) You guys sound great! Today we have a special guest named Lydia who is going to share her story. Please help me welcome Lydia to Philippi.

*[Lead clapping and invite Lydia on stage]*

(Lydia)

- Thank you all for coming to my craft shop yesterday. You all did such a great job making crafts for others. Children around the world are going to be so happy when they see your gift.
- Well, I wanted to share my story with you. Hopefully, you won't make some of the same mistakes I made earlier in my life.
- You see, I grew up knowing about God but I never had a relationship with God. God was not real to me.
- I was hard working and did really well in business making beautiful purple clothes and crafts.
- I soon became very wealthy and bought multiple houses.
- But even though I had accomplished so much, I still felt like something was missing.
- I was empty inside. I was lonely. I was so proud that I wouldn't let others help me. I didn't care about other people.
- In spite of myself, God gave me a desire to learn about Him. So, I started studying the Hebrew scriptures.
- That's when I met Paul. He met me when I was reading the Scriptures.
- He helped me to understand what they meant.
- He told me that my selfish sins offended and separated me from God. He told me about a man named Jesus, who lived a perfect life and then died for my sins. Jesus paid the penalty for my sins by dying on a cross, and three days later He rose from the grave. When I understood this, I believed in Jesus. My life has never been the same.
- Jesus gave me a new purpose. I no longer work just to make more money and buy more houses. I now live to serve Jesus and to help others. God has helped me realize that I am an important part of the church in Philippi. Everyone is given a gift from God. In order for our church to work the way God planned, we need to help each other by using our gifts.

*[Lydia exits stage]*

(Claudius) Thank you, Lydia. Let's worship with another song before you go with your group leaders.

*[Lead group in song]*

**Rotation/Teaching: 6:50-8pm**

Rotation 1: 6:50- 7:10; Rotation 2: 7:15-7:35; Rotation 3: 7:40-8:00

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	-----Registration-----		
6:30-6:45	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
8:15-8:30	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: coming together to make something (each group completes part of a project that requires everyone working together in order to finish)
- Games (“Supply Run” bringing supplies to Paul in prison): Unity Team Building game
- Bible Lesson: Unity

**Closing Group Worship: 8:05- 8:15pm**

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone, I hope you enjoyed the teaching and activities. Timothy, Epaphroditus, Lydia and I have been speaking to Euodia and Syntyche and they have something they would like to share with you.

(Euodia) Hey everyone. I wanted to apologize for arguing earlier.

(Syntyche) Me too. We were being very selfish.

(Euodia) We learned a verse today that encouraged us. Philippians 1:27 says “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” It then says, “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...”

(Syntyche) Euodia and I are very different, but we learned today that those differences can make us stronger. We can serve Jesus better when we work together.

(Claudius) Thank you for sharing. That's very true. God is pleased when we work together in unity.

Let's close tonight with a couple worship songs together!

*[Lead group in singing 2-3 songs]*

**Sign out:** 8:20 – 8:30pm

### **Optional Camp In**

All children are signed out by family member/guardian. Families participating in the “Camp In” transition to a separate part of church to be informed of the nights activities, allowing those not participating to sign out and depart the church building.

Recommendations:

- Camp In participants must be pre-registered. Minimize last-minute additions to allow camp site and breakfast planning.
- Parents/guardians must accompany and maintain responsibility over children participating in Camp In activities.
  - Camp In is a parent-led event with minimal church staff oversight
- No more than three children per adult.
- Ensure appropriate nighttime security procedures are taken (doors locked, etc.)
- Recommended camp sites include:
  - Fellowship Hall
  - Classrooms (for snorers)
  - Possibly Sanctuary

## Day 3

### Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Thaddeus: Male character. Not named, but refers to the Philippian Jailer in [Acts 16:25-40](#).

### “True Freedom through Faith in Christ”

Breakfast/Devotion time

**Registration:** 9:45- 10:00am

**Opening Group Worship:** 10:15- 10:30am

(Claudius) Good morning and welcome to our third and final day together.

Today we have a very special guest, named Thaddeus. He works here at the jail in Philippi and he’s going to share his amazing story. Please help me welcome Thaddeus!

*[Lead clapping and invite Thaddeus on stage]*

(Thaddeus) Hi everyone! My name is Thaddeus, but you can call me Thad.

- I am the chief Jailer for the city of Philippi. Basically, my job is to keep prisoners in jail and make sure they don’t escape. Today I am going to talk about what it means to be free in Jesus Christ.
- I was once a very proud man. I grew up as a Roman citizen and was taught to be loyal to my country. I worked very hard for a long time and served my country well. I desired to become powerful. I wanted to be recognized as an important leader.
- I also didn’t care about other people. All I cared about was myself. I always had to be in control. I would often hurt prisoners just to be mean and show them I was in charge. I would laugh at them because they were stuck in prison chains. However, I didn’t realize I was stuck too. I was controlled by my desires. I was living for money, power, honor and my selfish feelings. I was a slave to the desires of this world.
- However, everything changed after I met a certain prisoner named Paul. Paul was different from other prisoners. For one, he hadn’t committed a



crime. And unlike other prisoners, Paul wasn't afraid of me even though I could make his life miserable. But what really puzzled me was that Paul was joyful. Here was a man who was wrongfully imprisoned, hungry and cold. Yet he was full of joy. Instead of feeling bad for himself, he felt bad for me. He said if I died without trusting in Jesus Christ, I would have to pay the penalty for my sins by spending eternity in hell. He told me that his God had power. I kept telling myself that Paul was just a crazy man. But something inside told me otherwise.

- That night there was a great earthquake like I had never experienced before. I awoke and to my dismay, all the prison doors were open. Normally, prisoners flee when prison doors are opened. I thought everyone had fled. If everyone escaped I could be blamed and put in prison myself. For a moment, I thought my life was over.
- Just when I feared the worst, I heard a voice. You know who it was? It was Paul! He was still there! He had not tried to escape. And the other prisoners were there too!
- I soon realized Paul's God had caused the earthquake and opened all the prison doors. I wanted to know this God. I begged Paul and asked him how I could be saved. He told me to "believe" in Jesus Christ.
- I now believe in Jesus and I'm happy to say, my whole family believes in Jesus too. We are free from the power of sin. We are free from the lies in this world. We are free to follow Jesus with our whole heart. I want to encourage you as well. Don't live for this world. Live for Jesus and you will find true freedom.

(Claudius). Thank you, Thad.

What Thad said is very true. Only Jesus can give us true freedom.

Let's sing and praise God with a couple of songs before we separate into our groups.

*[Lead group in singing worship songs]*

**Rotations/teaching: 10:20 – 11:30am**

Rotation 1: 10:20-10:40; Rotation 2: 10:45-11:05; Rotation 3: 11:10-11:30

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
9:45-10:00	-----Registration-----		
10:00-10:15	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
10:20- 10:40	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
10:45-11:05	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
11:10-11:30	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
11:35-11:45	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
11:45-12:00	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: theme Faith/Freedom
- Games (Break Free): Prison-themed escape room, using bible and other clues to free the prisoner and your group.
- Bible Lesson: Real freedom is found only in Christ. Gospel message.

**Closing Group Worship: 11:35- 11:45am**

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone for our final closing Group Worship.

[Look sad as kids sound disappointed but quickly cheer up]

I’m sorry to see VBS end this year as well, but it’s been awesome seeing God at work here this weekend. Thank you all for coming and we hope to see you at church tomorrow!

Before we close with a couple of songs, I want to ask each of you two favors.

First, if God has used this event to encourage you, would you let your leaders and your parents know. Perhaps you believed in Jesus or perhaps you were challenged to be a better servant. We would love to hear what God has done.

Second, if you have any questions about anything you heard this weekend, please let one of the leaders here know.

Okay, let’s worship and praise God:

[Sing 2-3 worship songs]

**Sign out: 12:00 noon**

# Lessons for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Day 1: Serving God and serving others

**Introduction:** Welcome to Bible Expedition!

As you may know, Paul wrote a letter to the Christians at Philippi. That letter is now known as the book of Philippians. Today we are going to talk about servants mentioned in the book of Philippians.

So, I have a question for you. What do you think of when you hear the word servant?

Answers: maid, butler, worker. You might think of a maid or butler, who is paid to do things like clean a house or cook food for another person.

A servant is someone who helps others. In the bible it can also mean “one who is obedient and faithful to God.” (for Teacher: doulos-Greek, ebhedh-Hebrew; meanings can be “Slave”, “attendant”, the position of someone in relation to a king, a term of humility)

### Servants at Philippi

We first hear the word servant in the first verse, Philippians 1:1, where says, “Paul and Timothy, Servants of Christ Jesus.” This word Servant used here can also be translated “Slave.” Paul and Timothy were completely devoted to Christ. They would do whatever God asked them to do.

Paul was in Prison when he wrote the letter to the Philippians. He gave up everything to serve Jesus.

He wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:11-13, “To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.”

Timothy was a young man who helped Paul. He was trustworthy and faithful. From Timothy we learn that we can serve God at any age. Paul instructed Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:12, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are

young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Epaphroditus is also mentioned. He was willing to sacrifice everything to serve Jesus. In Philippians we learn that Epaphroditus almost died trying to help Paul.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Being a servant involves sacrifice and giving up what you want to help someone else.

So, I have a question: How many of you like video games? Let’s say you wake up on a Saturday morning and you want to play video games. But you realize the house is messy. There are toys everywhere and your mom is busy working.

Ask: What do you think a Servant would do?

Answer: Help clean the house.

A servant would willingly give up what they want to do (play video games) and instead help someone else.

**Group Question #1:** What are ways that you can serve others, whether at home or at school or at church?

Doing chores, being obedient to parents, not complaining, giving to missionaries, showing kindness to others, etc.

**Group Question #2.** Discuss a time you helped someone. What was their response? How did that make you feel?

**Christ the greatest servant-** The book of Philippians tells us of the greatest Servant, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the best example we have of a servant.

Let’s Read Philippians 2:5-11 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and

gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

**Humbled himself** -- Jesus, the Creator of the universe, became a man. Think about that for a second, the King of Kings left heaven and the perfect communion with the Father to come to earth as a servant.

Humility means that you think of others more than you think of yourself.

Think of the yuckiest chore in your house. Perhaps, cleaning toilets?

Some of you would say, "Yuck, I would never clean a toilet."

A humble servant is willing to do the chores no one else wants to do.

Jesus is our example of humility. He showed this when He washed the disciple's feet. Think how stinky, smelly and gross the disciple's feet must have been. They walked around all day in sandals on dirt roads. They walked behind donkeys, horses and camels. Would you have wanted to wash their feet? Jesus did not think He was too important. He came as a lowly servant.

How about you? Do you think of others as important? Do you serve others? Do you do your chores with a good attitude? Let's say your teammate scores the winning shot on a basketball team. Are you happy for them or are you sad because you didn't make the shot? Humility allows you to be happy when others do well.

Philippians 2:3 says "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves."

**Obedient to death**-- This passage says Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death. Jesus obeyed His Father even when it was hard.

How about you? Do you obey people in authority such as your parents? Do you get upset or frustrated when your parents tell you to do things? A humble person is an obedient person.

Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Jesus, the King of Kings, obeyed His parents. When Jesus became an adult, Jesus obeyed God by dying on the cross for us. Living in humility will allow you to obey those God has placed in authority.

**Rewarded for His obedience:** Lastly, we learn that Jesus was rewarded for His obedience. God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every other name. One day everyone will know and profess that Jesus is the King of Kings.

**Group Question #3:** List some reasons why we should serve God

Ex. Because God loves us, thankfulness for what God has done, God tells us to, God rewards us, it pleases God, etc.

### **3 Reasons to serve God:**

1. **Thankfulness** for God's love and sacrifice:

God loves you and gives you the opportunity to believe in Him and have eternal life. He loved you enough to die for you.

Philippians 2:1-2 "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

If God's love brings you comfort, be like-minded and share that same love with others.

Christ gave Himself for us. We should give ourselves for others.

2. **Rewards:** Those who serve God will have great rewards in heaven

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.'"

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Treasure you have on earth will one day be gone, but the treasure you put in heaven will last forever.

3. **To please God:** How many of you want to please God with your life?

Being a Servant pleases God.

Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship”

To become a servant, you have to surrender yourself to God. You have to be willing to sacrifice your desires and to let God give you better desires that will honor and bring glory to Him.

Each of you has been given many talents and abilities from God. Our hope is that you would use those gifts and talents for good: to serve God and to serve others.

Let’s pray.

## Day 2: Unity in Christ

**Unity Overview:** Today we are going to discuss unity

Can someone tell me what unity means?

Answers: oneness, having the same goals/purpose (example team sports)

Ask: Let's say you are all playing soccer together. What would happen if one person tries to score all the points and he takes the ball from his own players?

Answer: the whole team will lose.

Ask: What would happen in a war if every soldier decided they would fight the enemy all by themselves?

Answer: the enemy would win.

The same is true for Christians. When you become a Christian, you become part of God's team. God desires that you work together with other Christians to share the great news about Jesus. Other Christians can help protect you against attacks from the enemy, Satan.

Philippians 1:27 says, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel."

"Standing firm in one spirit" means you are getting along and have a good attitude.

"Striving together as one" means you are working together in unity.

### **So what causes disunity and why is unity so difficult?**

The church of Philippi had people from various walks of life. Lydia was a business owner. In the book of Acts we learn about a Philippian Jailer and a slave girl. These people had to work together, even though they were different. This wasn't always easy. Paul had to ask Euodia and Syntyche to get along and be of the same mind. Paul also had to write a letter to the Corinthian church encouraging them to get along.

**Group Question #1:** Why do you think Unity, getting along with others, is so hard sometimes?



**Group Question #2:** Describe a time you experienced disunity (arguments, fighting, and disagreements). What was the cause?

The bible tells us what causes disunity in James 4:1-4

James 4:1-4: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

**Selfishness:** The root cause of disunity (not getting along with others) is selfishness.

Selfishness means you are seeking good for yourself without considering others.

Can someone give me an example of selfishness?

Not sharing your toys, arguing with your family members, and disobedience to parents are all examples of selfishness.

*[Share a personal example]*

*I remember selfishness in the church when I was a child. I remember kids in the church not wanting to sit with me or play with me. I remember adults looking down on me and seeing me as a nuisance. That made me feel rejected and like I didn't belong there.*

I have seen selfishness even in this church. Some of you don't welcome visitors. Some of you will be friends only with people you like. Some of you have even been unkind to others. That is sin and an offense to God.

Selfishness should never be part of a church. If like me you have ever felt like people didn't like you in church, you can remember that God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you." If you are a child of God, He will always love you and accept you. God is never selfish.

God encourages us to have unity. Philippians 2:1-5 "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but

each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

We are united with Christ. Jesus accepted us with all of our faults and failures and calls us to live for Him. He demonstrated His love and acceptance by dying on the cross for us. We should show the same love for others.

### **Benefits of Unity:**

#### **Group Question 3#: What are benefits of seeking unity (sharing, working together and loving others)?**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 is a passage that explains some of the benefits of working in unity.

“Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.  
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

So, when you are working in unity you can accomplish more work. You can also receive help when you need it. If you fall down, someone can help you up. You can defend yourself against the schemes of Satan.

**Example of Unity:** Show a picture of a prairie dog.

*[Share a personal example related to prairie dogs...even if it's referencing a nature show]*

*I remember when I was a young kid I went to South Dakota and saw prairie dogs for the first time.*

*Prairie dogs by themselves are pretty helpless against predators. A lot of animals like to eat prairie dogs, such as coyotes, foxes, snakes, hawks, and eagles. But prairie dogs have learned to survive in the grasslands and even the desert, one of*

*the harshest environments on the planet. They do so by working in unity. They dig tunnels underground to stay safe and keep cool in the summer heat. They will also post a sentinel to watch for predators while other prairie dogs search for food.*

In the same way, Christians working in unity can survive in this world and are better protected against Satan's schemes.

### **How can we seek Unity?**

So, we know that it is good for us to work together in unity. We also know that selfishness works against unity. So how can we work toward unity? What can we do that will help us become more unified?

**Answer: Love:** Instead of being selfish, love one another.

**1 Corinthian 13:4-8** tells us what love is. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

So instead of being selfish, seek to please God by being kind to everyone. Share your toys. Be kind to others. Obey your parents. Greet visitors in the church. Find ways to make people feel welcome. If you have acted wrongly to someone, apologize and ask God to help you love them better.

We can seek unity through Love.

Let's Pray and ask God to help us not be selfish and to seek unity through love.

## Day 3: Freedom through Faith in Christ

### What is Freedom?

We have discussed service and unity. Today we are going to discuss how Jesus can make us free.

*[Ask the Kids]* So what does it mean to be free?

Answer: the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.

Examples:

Slaves must do everything their owners tell them to do.

Prisoners are restricted from leaving and making their own choices.

### Four ways that Jesus makes us free:

#### 1. Freedom from the Power of Sin:

**Philippians 1:10-11 says, “so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ”**

When we believe in Jesus, He gives us a desire to please Him, the ability to be pure and the power to overcome temptation.

How many of you have ever been tempted to do something wrong? For example, how many of you have ever been tempted to take something that wasn't yours? We all have.

Jesus can give us power over the temptation to sin.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** says, “**No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**”

#### 2. Freedom from Fear:

How many of you have ever been afraid?

Ask: What are some things you have been afraid of?

Examples of things we might be afraid of: fear of the dark, fear of monsters, fear of dying.

*[Share a personal example about when you were afraid and God helped you]*

*I remember when I was a teenager I got lost in a swamp called the Florida everglades. I took a wrong turn on a trail as it was getting dark. I ended up in knee deep water shared with alligators. I was afraid. I didn't know if I would make it out. But God was watching out for me. There happened to be one other person in the swamp that night. I saw his flashlight in the distance and ran toward him. He helped guide me out of the swamp to safety. In the same way, God will help guide us when we are afraid.*

In Philippians we learn we don't have to be afraid. **Philippians 4:6** says **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”**.

When we believe in Jesus, we no longer have to be controlled by fear or anxiety.

The bible teaches us that God loves us and watches over us. Nothing can happen to us that He doesn't know about. **“All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose.”** Even though we will have trials and hard times, we can know that they are temporary. We also have the hope of heaven where there will be no sickness, pain or suffering.

### **3. Freedom from being held captive by “earthly” things:**

When referring to God's enemies, **Philippians 3:19-20** says **“...Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”**

So, what are earthly things? Earthly things are things on earth you want that you think will bring you happiness or satisfaction. They can be stuff, like video games, toys, go carts. It can even be something like popularity. You might want everyone to like you and be your friend.

God gives us these things as gifts for us to glorify Him, but earthly things will never truly satisfy. No matter how much stuff you have that stuff will never give you contentment. Only God can give you contentment.

In Philippians we learn that only God can satisfy us. **Philippians 4:11** says, **“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”** Paul learned that the secret to having contentment is to have Jesus. Only Jesus can give us true contentment.

#### 4. Freedom from the Penalty of Sin:

For the remainder of the time I am going to talk about how Jesus can save each of us from the penalty of sin.

But first, we need to know some things.

Can anyone tell me what sin is?

Sin is disobedience to God or breaking God’s rules. For instance, how many of you have ever heard of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? God told Adam and Eve to not eat the fruit from one specific tree. What did Adam and Eve do? Adam and Eve broke God’s rule by eating the fruit. Adam and Eve sinned.

Because of their disobedience, everyone is born with a sin nature. Without God’s help, we are unable to obey all of God’s rules. For instance, God tells us that we should never lie. God also tells us to obey our parents.

**Group Question #1:** How many of you have ever lied or disobeyed your parents? How many of you are sinners?

**Answer:** All of us have lied or disobeyed our parents. All of us are sinners.

The bible puts it this way. **Romans 3:23** says, **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”** **Romans 3:10** says, **“There is no one righteous, no not one.”**

We are all guilty of breaking God’s rules. We are all Sinners.

What happens when you break the rules at home or at school? Let’s say you cheat on a test or punch someone?

**Answer:** There is a penalty or punishment such as a time out or a spanking.

Well here's the bad news: God has made a punishment for everyone who is a sinner. Since we are all sinners, we all deserve the punishment.

**Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death."**

That verse means the punishment for breaking God's rules is death. That death is not just a physical death, but a spiritual death, an eternal separation from God in a place called hell.

Since we are all sinners, all of us deserve the punishment of hell. **James 2:10** says, **"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."** We have all broken God's perfect law.

But today I have good news to share. That good news is Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

The good news is Jesus loves us so much that He took our punishment. Jesus paid the price of our punishment by dying on the cross. Three days after He died, do you know what else? He rose from the grave! He now lives and gives the gift of salvation to everyone who believes in Him. Everyone who trusts in Jesus becomes a child of God and will not have to receive the punishment of hell. God gives them the gift of eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Not everyone who says they know Jesus will be allowed in heaven. It's not enough just to know about Jesus, you have to believe in Jesus and all that He said. Only those who truly believe and trust in God through His son Jesus Christ will be given the gift of eternal life.

For instance, imagine you are on an airplane that is crashing and you are offered a parachute. What must you do with that parachute to be saved from the crashing plane?

**Answer:** You must put on the parachute.

Only those who receive the parachute, and put it on will be saved from the plane crash.

What happens if you reject the parachute?

You will crash and be killed.

In the same way, those who reject Jesus and don't believe in Him will not be saved. Only those who believe in Him and trust in Him alone will be saved.

**Romans 6:23** says, "**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.**"

**Acts 16:31** says, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved**"

**Romans 10:9** says, "**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**"

Once you understand what Jesus has done, you can believe and receive the gift of salvation. You can believe in Him today and be set free from the penalty of your sin.

Let's pray.

Dear Father, thank You for each boy and girl here. Thank You that You care about each one of us and that You want us to be free from the punishment of sin. I ask that You work in the hearts of these children and that You draw them to Yourself. Help them to be obedient. Help them to be like Jesus and serve You with all their heart. Thank You that through Jesus we can be forgiven of our sins.

Is there anyone here that feels God is working in your heart to believe in Jesus today and you want to give Jesus control of your life?

*[For those who respond]* Praise God. We would like to discuss this more with you. We have servants who would like to talk about this with you.

*[Those who respond will go with the designated persons to a separate room where they can discuss salvation and what it means in greater detail]*

*[For those who remain]* We would also like to know how God is working in your life. Perhaps God has used Bible Expedition to encourage you in your faith. Please share with your leaders and your parents what God has done this weekend.

Thank you for coming to Bible Expedition!



# Lessons for Preschool

## **“Journey to Philippi”**

### **Preschool Lesson 1**

#### **Serving God and Others**

For today’s lesson we are going to talk about Servants

- Can anyone tell me what a Servant is?
- Answer: A Servant is someone who takes care of others.

The bible talks a lot about Servants. Timothy and Epaphroditus are two of the servants mentioned in the book of Philippians. We are all called to be Servants of God and to serve others.

Today we are going to talk about the most important Servant ever. Does anyone know who that might be?

His name is Jesus. The bible tells us that Jesus is God’s Son who lives in heaven. And that Jesus came all the way from Heaven to serve us!

**Philippians 2:5-7** says,

**“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

**Who, being in very nature God,**

**did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;**

**rather, he made himself nothing**

**by taking the very nature of a servant,**

**being made in human likeness.”**

Jesus is the most important Servant because He died for our sins so that we can have a way to get to heaven.

**Mark 10:45** says,

**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

The Bible also tells us that we can serve others. When we serve others, God will give us a reward in heaven.

**Colossians 3:23-24** says,

**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”**

### **Questions about Serving God and others:**

1. How does the Bible say we should serve/work? (answer: Work at whatever we do with our whole heart)
2. What does it mean to serve/work at something with your whole heart? (answer: to do the very best job you can with a good attitude)
3. When we serve, who should we try to please? (answer: “as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” When we serve, we should realize we are serving the Lord Jesus Christ, not just other people.)
4. God sees the things that we do to serve/help others. What does the Bible say we will receive from God for serving with a good attitude? (Answer: An inheritance; Explain that usually an inheritance is something valuable that you receive from someone, such as a gift)
5. What types of chores or jobs do you have? (Answer: cleaning up toys, helping mom or dad, sharing, getting along with brother or sister)

6. Do you work at these jobs with your whole heart? (Give time for answers, with a good attitude)
  
7. Do you work at these jobs like you are serving/working for God? (Give time for answers)

### Craft/Activity time

- Have kids go shopping at Operation Christmas Child store in 'The Shops at Philippi' for items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. (Give pretend coins to shop with)
  
- Have kids decorate a hand clapper with stickers and a verse attached that discusses serving.

### Game Time

- Helping Hand Obstacle Course

### Snack Time

- Bring some easy snacks (cookies/crackers and juice boxes) for the kids to serve. Split the kids up evenly and have them place the snacks on the table to "serve each other."

# **“Journey to Philippi”**

## **Preschool Lesson 2**

### **Unity: Working together to bring God glory**

For today’s lesson we are going to discuss Unity. The Bible teaches us to work together with others to bring God glory.

God is pleased when we work together with a good attitude.

**Philippians 1:27** says,

**“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”**

- What does unity or “one spirit” mean? (Allow for answers, explain that unity is working together as one)

The Bible also teaches us to work together in humility. Humility means that you think of others as important and not just think about yourself.

**Philippians 2:1-7** says,

**“Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

**Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”**

1. Why do you think it's hard to get along and work together sometimes?  
(Because of selfishness. Philippians 2:3 says do nothing out of selfishness)
  
2. How can we "think like Jesus?" (We can think of others before ourselves, not complain when things are hard or they don't go our way, do everything in love)
  
3. How does God want us to act when we serve Him in unity? (read Philippians 2:14-16 below)

The Bible also teaches us to do everything without grumbling or complaining.

**Philippians 2:14-16** says,

**"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain."**

1. Should we fight and argue with each other? (no, see **Philippians 2:14**)
2. What are things that we grumble (complain) or argue (fight) about? (Allow for answers, not sharing, complaining about what's for dinner, not helping put your toys away, not getting to watch a movie, fighting with your brother or sister, etc.)
  - Philippians says that if we work together and serve God with good attitudes and love towards one another that we will shine in the world for Jesus just like the stars shine brightly in the sky.

### **Craft/Activity Time:**

'Grouchy Garbage Can' Activity – Using a mini trashcan and printed out things that kids commonly complain about, Kids throw away their complaints

"Now that we have thrown away all our complaining and arguing (the things that keep us from working together in unity) we can shine like stars in the sky for Jesus!"

'Shine Like Stars' – Make star sensory bottles.

### **Game Time/ Snack Time:**

“Teamwork Trail Mix” scavenger hunt

Divide kids into as many teams as there are leaders and distribute clues. Clues will lead them to boxes that contain different items needed to make their snack for the night’s session.

Kids will bring their boxes back to the snack table and open them to see what everyone found. The kids will all have to work together in unity to make the trail mix yummy by sharing what they found.

Explain that by everyone bringing what they found and sharing it with everyone (without complaining or grumbling) that everyone gets to have the treat and enjoy it.

## **“Journey to Philippi”**

### **Preschool Lesson 3**

#### **Rejoicing in the Freedom God gives**

For today’s lesson we are going to learn that we can rejoice because God gives us freedom.

**Philippians 4:4** says,

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”**

#### **Rejoice in freedom from fear:**

The Bible teaches us that we can be free from being afraid.

**Philippians 4:6-7** says,

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

The Bible tells us we don’t have to be afraid or anxious (means scared or worried) for anything.

- What does the Bible say we should do instead of being scared and worried?  
(Answer: Pray and give God our worries, and He will give us peace.)

#### **Rejoice in the freedom of our thoughts:**

The Bible also tells us the things we think about are important to God. In the Bible Paul gives us a list of things that we can think about that are pleasing to God.

**Philippians 4:8** says,

**“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”**

God wants us to have good thoughts. He gives us the following words to describe thoughts that are good to have:

- True = God’s truths; true things
- Noble = honorable (things that are worthy)
- Right = that we should think about doing right things.
- Pure = “thoughts that do not leave a stain”
- Lovely = pleasant, enjoyable, delightful
- Admirable = what is good, something worthy of approval

### **Rejoice through obedience**

We can also rejoice because God gives us good rules to follow. God’s rules are meant to protect us from getting hurt.

**Psalm 119:45** says,

**“I will walk about in freedom,  
for I have sought out your precepts.”**

That verse means we can live in freedom when we follow God’s instructions/rules.

### **Rejoice in the strength God gives us:**

We can also rejoice, because God gives us strength.

**Philippians 4:13** says, **“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”**

Life will be difficult sometimes, but God’s strength will get us through anything.

**Psalm 118:14** says,

**“The LORD is my strength and my defense, he has become my salvation.”**



### **Rejoice in freedom from the penalty of our sin:**

The greatest reason to rejoice is because God gives us freedom from the penalty (punishment) of our sins.

- Can someone tell me what sin is? (Answer: Disobeying God)
- How many of us have disobeyed God and are sinners? (Answer: The bible teaches that all of us are sinners.)

**Romans 3:23** says, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

- Does anyone know what the punishment for sin is?
- The punishment for sinning is eternal separation from God in a place called hell.

**Romans 6:23** says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

However, there is good news. The bible teaches us that Jesus died on the cross to save us from the punishment for our sins.

**John 3:16** says, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

The Bible says that God gave his only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment of sin for us. If we believe that He died on the cross for our sins and rose again then we will live forever in heaven with Him. That is something we can truly rejoice about.

### **Craft/Activity/Snack Time:**

- Make spoon shaker (noise makers)
- Have a Party! What a better way to explain to this age the idea of rejoicing than to have a party! Cupcakes, balloons, streamers, noise makers, pin the tail on the donkey, music, etc.

## **“Journey to Philippi” Family Devotion Questions**

**Philippians 1:27-30** “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

1. In what ways can our conduct (behavior) be worthy of the Gospel?
2. Explain the meaning of the Gospel (Good news) to your children.
3. This passage states “they will be destroyed”, but “you will be saved.” Who are those that will be destroyed and who will be saved? (Answer: only those who believe in Christ will be saved)
4. Why is unity important in the family?
5. Why is unity important in the church?
6. Suffering is part of our lives as Christians. Discuss a time in your life when God allowed suffering in your life, but God used that suffering for good. (Romans 8:28)

**Philippians 2:1-4** “Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

7. Why is selfishness (disunity) so dangerous?
8. Describe consequences and dangers of pride.
9. Describe a time in your life when you struggled with pride. Share with your kids how God delivered you.
10. What are ways we can value others above ourselves?

11. How can we serve others at home and at church?

## **Journey to Philippi: Decorations, Costumes, Music and Crafts**

### ➤ Decorations

- Stage decorations: Ancient Greek style
  - 6 Greek pillars, purple tablecloths used as drapes
  - Church of Philippi signage
- Marketplace
  - Market table
  - Grape vines
  - Wares for sale
  - Plastic fruit

### ➤ Costumes

- Use brown sheets to make costumes
  - Cut to size and tied together with safety pins
- Actors/volunteers wear sandals

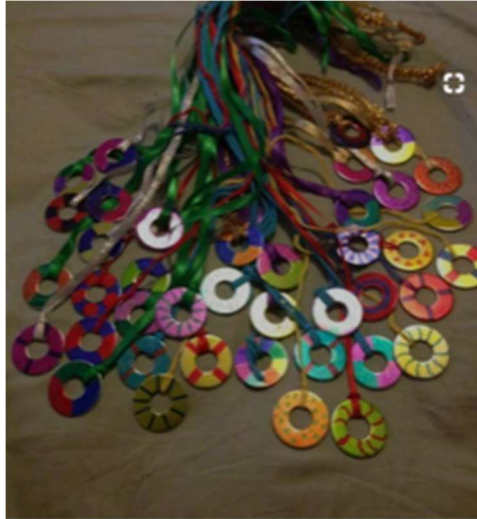
### ➤ Music

- Each church's worship leader can select children's music based on their own church's worship style and preferences. "Seeds of Faith" is not affiliated with Bible Expedition but may be a good option for those seeking Scripturally-based children's worship music and lyrics.

<https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/>

➤ Crafts

Day 1: Kids make necklaces for Operation Christmas Child. These can be made using embroidery string, washers and craft paint.



Day 2: Kids decorate a tote bag with the following verse printed on the fabric. This can be performed by a church member with a Cricut or

silhouette crafting machine or the printed bags can be ordered online.



Day 3: Decorate a prayer rock: Kids paint small rocks and are given a laminated verse to take home.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from the evil one.

# “Journey to Philippi”

## K-6<sup>th</sup> Games

### Day 1

#### **JOURNEY TO PHILIPPI TREASURE HUNT**

Competitive scavenger hunt around church for prizes given to Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

You will break into teams  
And search for some clues.  
At each location,  
There will be items for OCC to use!

Each team will have a bag  
To put the items in.  
Thank you for being a servant;  
We'll then put them in the OCC bin!

#### BLUE TEAM CLUES

CLUE 1  
Don't drag your feet!

Walk fast, not slow!  
Go find Clue 2 by a piano!

CLUE 2  
Roses are red.  
Violets are blue.  
Go find Clue 3 under a front row pew!

CLUE 3  
You sure are impressive!  
Are you starting to perspire?  
Go find Clue 4 near the tool to put out a fire!

CLUE 4  
Wasn't that fun?  
Are you ready for more?  
Go find Clue 5 by Pastor Terry's office door.

CLUE 5  
You're halfway through  
With your inspection!  
Go find Clue 6 by your reflection!

CLUE 6  
Move right away,  
As quick as a wink.  
Go find Clue 7 hidden under a nursery sink!

CLUE 7  
Getting tired?  
Don't despair!  
Go find Clue 8 under a market chair!

CLUE 8  
Are you having a good time?  
Are you in a good mood?  
Go find Clue 9 where they prepare tasty food!

CLUE 9  
You're doing great  
Playing this game.  
Go find Clue 10 using the OCC table as your aim!

CLUE 10  
This game is finished!  
You've been a great sport!  
So go find your prize in the market court!

## RED TEAM CLUES

**CLUE 1**  
Move right away,

As quick as a wink.  
Go find Clue 2 hidden under a nursery sink!

CLUE 2  
Getting tired?  
Don't despair!  
Go find Clue 3 under a market chair!

CLUE 3  
Are you having a good time?  
Are you in a good mood?  
Go find Clue 4 where they prepare tasty food!

CLUE 4  
You're halfway through  
With your inspection!  
Go find Clue 5 by your reflection!

CLUE 5  
Don't drag your feet!  
Walk fast, not slow!  
Go find Clue 6 by a piano!

CLUE 6  
Roses are red.  
Violets are blue.  
Go find Clue 7 under a front row pew!

CLUE 7  
You sure are impressive!  
Are you starting to perspire?  
Go find Clue 8 near the tool to put out a fire!

CLUE 8  
Wasn't that fun?  
Are you ready for more?  
Go find Clue 9 by Pastor Terry's office door.

CLUE 9  
You're doing great  
Playing this game.  
Go find Clue 10 using the OCC table as your aim!

CLUE 10  
This game is finished!  
You've been a great sport!  
So go find your prize in the market court!



# “Journey to Philippi”

## K-6<sup>th</sup> Games Day 2

### “Supply Run” bringing supplies for Paul in prison

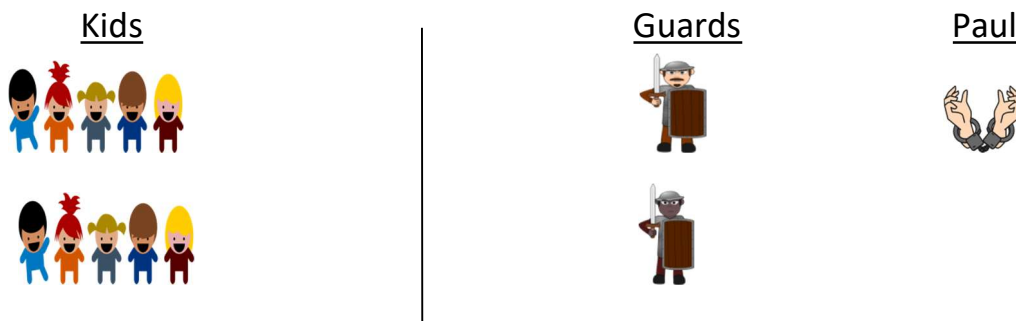
This game is a mix between Dodge Ball and Capture the Flag. Kids will need to work together to bring food and supplies for Paul who is protected by Roman Guards.

Some basic supplies will help Paul fulfill his ministry from prison. Paul needs food, water, a blanket, used clothes and a pad to write on. Selected items should not be too bulky so that kids can run with them. Optional items may include small water bottles, plastic fruit, mandarin oranges etc.

There should be extras of each item so kids will need to work together to ensure at least one of each item is delivered. Kids are allowed to carry only one item at a time. Participants will also need to help others by distracting the Guards. Distractions can include noise makers and dodge balls to throw at the Guards. One point will be awarded for each item that is delivered to Paul. If all 5 items are delivered to Paul, an additional 5 points will be awarded.

The Guards will be defending Paul. The Guards will also have dodge balls. If a participant is tagged or hit by a dodge ball, any items they are carrying should be dropped as the player departs for time out. Players escape the penalty box by reciting the verse of the day. Guards should play easier on younger participants, but harder on older participants. When participants are acting in unity (dodge balls, noise makers and multiple runners coming at once), Guards should look more distracted or chase kids so that Paul is briefly left unguarded.

- Game Sequence:
  - Briefing (5 minutes): Explain the rules; discuss how unity will lead to a higher score. Give kids a couple minutes to strategize how they will deliver the items.
  - Game time (10 minutes)
  - Debriefing: (last 5 minutes): Add up the total points. Discuss results of the game. Discussion questions should include how working together in unity led to Paul receiving more supplies.
- Setup



# “Journey to Philippi”

## K-6<sup>th</sup> Games Day 3

### Sin Prison Escape Room

**Objective:** Save “Apostle Paul” from his chains and escape sin prison, without waking sleeping guard

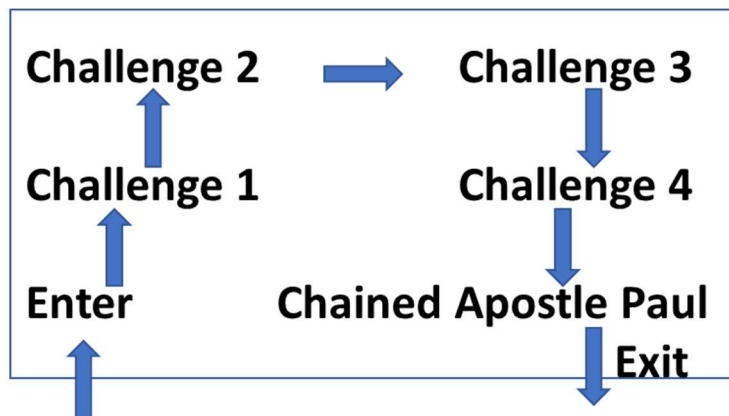
#### Escape Room Layout

Set up large room with at least one, optimally two doors (one entrance, one exit). Place obstacles in logical order with “Apostle Paul” chained up near the exit.

Have a sleeping guard in the prison so children must keep volume to a minimum so as not to wake him.

Laminate (or print on cardstock at a minimum) all clue cards and place at each challenge location.

Groups of more than 10 should be split up.



#### Schedule:

Intro/briefing and read first clue (outside of escape room): 5 minutes

Escape room execution: 10 minutes

Debrief after execution (outside room so it can be set back up): 5 minutes

#### Challenge 1

**Setting:** Outside the room, transitioning into room once challenge begins

#### Instructions:

1. Hand or read the card to the group and answer clarification questions for 5 minutes
2. Open door and start 10-minute timer

#### Supplies:

Outside room

1. Clue card 1 (outside room)

Inside room

1. Red bucket full of filler (Styrofoam peanuts, paper, etc.)
2. Yellow bucket full of filler (Styrofoam peanuts, paper, etc.)
3. Blue bucket full of filler (Styrofoam peanuts, paper, etc.)
4. Laminated Clue Cards 2 and 3 (placed inside blue bucket)

**Clue Card 1:** You're about to enter the Prison of Sin  
Let me tell you a few things before you begin  
You'll think you have many minutes, but you only have 10  
That's how it goes in the Prison of Sin

The past few days, you've learned a lot about unity  
And you'll have to work together, to set the captive free

Watch out for the guard, he's probably asleep,  
So, make sure you work your way through without making a peep

To help you out, we'll guide with a series of clues  
The first set (clue 3 and clue 2) will be found in the bucket of blue

Successfully solve the clues to direct your way  
And you, your team, and the captive won't have to stay!

---OPEN DOOR AND START 10 MINUTE TIMER----

**Clue Card 2:**

You have found clue number 2  
And it will tell you what to do.

This isn't too hard, your head won't be aching  
Find the animal from which we get delicious bacon.

**Clue Card 3:**

On the wall you will find  
pictures that will stretch your mind.

The picture of the clue you seek  
will be the animal which has a beak.

## **Challenge 2**

**Setting:** Inside room

**Instructions:**

1. Guide team and give clues to assist as needed

**Supplies:**

Laminated pictures pinned to a string or placed on a table with appropriate clues on the back

1. Chicken
2. Pig
3. Horse
4. Cow
5. Truck
6. Jet
7. Cross
8. Church

### **Clue Card (Chicken):**

Look at the table, and you will find  
Two items which can distract your mind.  
Inside each item, where you find the batteries,  
You will find what unlocks the next items....keys!

### **Clue Card (Pig):**

To find where to use the key,  
Look in the source of ultimate truth.  
Here's a helpful hint,  
Look in the book of Ruth.

### **Clue Card (Horse):**

This is a horse, of course of course  
which means you've gone way off course.  
-Sorry, try again-

### **Clue Card (Cow):**

Moo Moo goes the cow  
and although you may know how.  
You've chosen the wrong clue....wow

**Clue Card (Truck):**

Vroom vroom goes this machine  
And you may think it's mean,  
But this is an incorrect clue  
I think you know what to do.  
-Keep looking!-

**Clue Card (Jet):**

This object screeches across the sky  
And I won't tell you a lie  
You need to keep looking.

**Clue Card (Cross):**

On this Roman torture device, our Savior died  
But as for solving the clue, you've unsuccessfully tried  
....keep looking.

**Clue Card (Church):**

This is a church, and it has a steeple  
But it's a wrong clue, come on people!  
....keep looking.

### **Challenge 3**

**Setting:** Inside room

**Instructions:**

1. Guide team and give clues to assist as needed

**Supplies:**

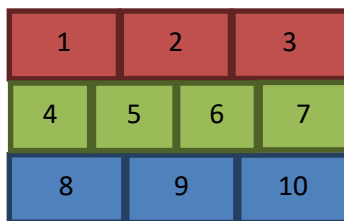
1. Table
2. Lego blocks
3. TV remote (with key/combo in battery compartment)
4. Video game controller (with key/combo in battery compartment)
5. Bible with note clue in book of Ruth
6. Distracting items
  - a. Vegetables
  - b. Comb
  - c. Tooth brush
  - d. Flashlight
  - e. Rubber chicken
  - f. Etc.

#### **Clue Card (Bible):**

To uncover the next clue, free the captive and get on the go  
Place the blocks in order, according to the colors of the rainbow.  
The number of blocks is one less than eleven,  
And the opposite side will be the code to unlock the box labeled "Heaven."

#### **Clue Card (Legos):**

The Legos should be stacked like this  
You have no time to waste



The opposite side of the blocks  
Will help you unlock the Heaven case



## **Challenge 4**

**Setting:** Inside room

**Instructions:**

1. Guide team and give clues to assist as needed

**Supplies:**

1. Briefcase or box labeled "Heaven"
2. Key inside briefcase/box
3. Apostle Paul in chains, bolted with lock to chair

## **Escape Room Debrief**

**Setting:** Outside room

**Instructions:**

1. Have Apostle Paul or other adult lead a brief discussion about servant hood, unity, and freedom while the room is set back up for the next group. The faster the group finishes, the more time you have to debrief.

**Sample questions/responses:**

Note, there are no "wrong" answers from the kids, but guide them back to the concepts of servant hood, unity, and freedom in Christ.

- Was that fun? What was your favorite part about the escape room?
  - Solving the clues.
    - *Example response: God gives us clues about who He is and who we are in the Bible to help guide us to a closer walk with Him through life. God has also given you your parents and church leaders to help you as well. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*
  - It was hard.
    - *Example response: It's fun to complete a tough task like this, but not everything in our lives is fun like this. Sometimes we (even adults) must do things we don't want to, but we should still do our best. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*
- What would have happened if you guys had not worked together, or if one person tried to hog all the clues for themselves?
  - Would not have escaped.
    - *Example response: You guys showed great unity in solving the clues. And that same type of unity is needed whether serving in the church, helping your parents at home, etc. And that unity can be found only in Christ. Even adults need to find unity in Christ. Just like each of you had different clues in the escape room, each of us has different gifts with which we can serve Christ and each other together.*
    - *Philippians 2:1-4 "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-*

*minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

- There were a couple of “distracting” items on the table that are not sinful themselves (tv remote, video game controller), but that can easily become sin. How is this possible?
  - Various responses or they may not be able to respond.
    - *Example response: Just like money, candy, fun things like video games, and even friends, if we value them higher than God, that’s sin. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. God blesses us because He loves us, but we should not turn that blessing into an idol.*
    - *Philippians 1:10-11 “so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ”*
- This was a pretend sin prison, but how can sin really trap you and keep you in bondage?
  - Keeps us from doing what God wants us to.
    - *Example response: One of the clues was a Bible and that’s the best way to know how God wishes us to live lives that glorify Him and bring us true freedom. Psalm 119:45 says, “I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.” That verse means we can live in freedom when we follow God’s instructions/rules. We can also rejoice because God gives us good rules to follow. God’s rules are meant to protect us from getting hurt.*
    - *1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”*